

DIF

DIFFIDENCE. *n. f.* [from *diffide*.] Distrust; want of confidence; timidity.

No man almost thought himself secure, and men durst scarce commune or talk one with another; but there was a general diffidence every where. *Bacon's Henry VII.*

You have brought scandal To Israel, diffidence of God, and doubt In feeble hearts, propense enough before To waver. *Milton's Agonistes.*

If the evidence of its being, or that this is its true sense, be only on probable proofs, our assent can reach no higher than an assurance or diffidence, arising from the more or less apparent probability of the proofs. *Locke.*

Be silent always, when you doubt your sense; And speak, though sure, with seeming diffidence. *Pope.*

Whatever atheists think on, or whatsoever they look on, all do administer some reasons for suspicion and diffidence, least possibly they may be in the wrong; and then it is a fearful thing to fall into the hands of the living God. *Bentley's Sermon.*

DIFFIDENT. *adj.* [from *diffide*.] Not confident; not certain; distrustful.

I am not so confident of my own sufficiency as not willingly to admit the counsel of others; but yet I am not so diffident of myself, as brutishly to submit to any man's dictates. *K. Charles.*

Be not diffident Of wisdom; she deserts thee not, if thou Dismiss not her, when most thou need'st her nigh. *Milton.*

I was really so diffident of it, as to let it lie by me these two years, just as you now see it. *Pope.*

Pliny speaks of the Seres, the same people with the Chinese, as being very shy and diffident in their manner of dealing. *Arbutnot.*

Distrust makes the humble heart diffident. *Clarissa.*

TO DIFFIND. *v. a.* [*diffindo*, Latin.] To cleave in two; to split. *Dict.*

DIFFISION. *n. f.* [*diffisio*, Latin.] The act of cleaving or splitting. *Dict.*

DIFFLATION. *n. f.* [*difflatio*, Latin.] The act of scattering with a blast of wind. *Dict.*

DIFFLUENCE. *n. f.* [from *diffuso*, Latin.] The quality of diffusing; falling away on all sides; the effect of fluidity; the contrary to consistency.

Ice is water congealed by the frigidity of the air, whereby it acquireth no new form; but rather a consistence or determination of its diffuency, and omitteth not its essence, but condition of fluidity. *Brown's Vulgar Errors, b. ii. c. 1.*

DIFFLUENT. *adj.* [*diffluens*, Latin.] Flowing every way; not consistent; not fixed.

DIFFORM. *adj.* [from *forma*, Latin.] Contrary to uniform; having parts of different structure; dissimilar; unlike; irregular; as a *difform* flower, one of which the leaves are unlike each other.

The unequal refractions of *difform* rays proceed not from any contingent irregularities; such as are veins, an uneven polish, or fortuitous position of the pores of glass. *Newton.*

DIFORMITY. *n. f.* [from *difform*.] Diversity of form; irregularity; dissimilitude.

While they murmur against the present disposal of things, they rest not in their established natures; but desire in them a *difformity* from the primitive rule, and the idea of that mind, that formed all things best. *Brown's Vulgar Errors, b. i. c. 11.*

DIFFRANCHISEMENT. *n. f.* [*franchises*, French.] The act of taking away the privileges of a city.

TO DIFFUSE. *v. a.* [*diffusus*, Latin.]

1. To pour out upon a plane, so that the liquor may run every way.

When these waters began to rise at first, long before they could swell to the height of the mountains, they would *diffuse* themselves every way. *Burnet's Theory of the Earth.*

2. To spread; to scatter; to disperse.

Wisdom had ordain'd Good out of evil to create; instead Of spirits malign, a better race to bring Into their vacant room, and thence *diffuse* His good to worlds, and ages, infinite. *Milton's Par. Lost.*

No sect wants its apostles to propagate and *diffuse* it. *Decay of Piety.*

A chief renown'd in war, Whose race shall bear aloft the Latian name, And through the conquer'd world *diffuse* our fame. *Dryden.*

His eyes *diffus'd* a venerable grace, And charity itself was in his face. *Dryden's Good Parson.*

DIFFUSE. *adj.* [*diffusus*, Latin.]

1. Scattered; widely spread.

2. Copious; not concise.

DIFFUSED. *participial adj.* [from *diffuse*.] This word seems to have signified, in *Shakespeare's* time, the same as wild, uncouth, irregular.

Let them from forth a sawpit rush at once, With some *diffused* song. *Shakel. Merry Wives of Windsor.*

He grows like savages,

DIG

To swearing and stern looks, *diffus'd* attire, And every thing that seems unnatural. *Shakel. Henry V.*

DIFFUSELY. *adv.* [from *diffusely*.] Widely; dispersively; in manner of that which is spread every way.

DIFFUSINESS. *n. f.* [from *diffusely*.] The state of being diffused; dispersion.

DIFFUSELY. *adv.* [from *diffuse*.]

1. Widely; extensively.

2. Copiously; not concisely.

DIFFUSION. *n. f.* [from *diffuse*.]

1. Dispersion; the state of being scattered every way.

Whereas all bodies act either by the communication of their natures, or by the impressions and signatures of their motions, the *diffusion* of species visible seemeth to participate more of the former operation, and the species audible of the latter. *Bacon's Natural History, N^o. 269.*

A sheet of very well streaked marbled paper did not cast distinct colours upon the wall, nor throw its light with an equal *diffusion*; but threw its beams, unstained and bright, to this and that part of the wall. *Boyle on Colours.*

2. Copiousness; exuberance or stile.

DIFFUSIVE. *adj.* [from *diffuse*.]

1. Having the quality of scattering any thing every way.

Diffusive of themselves, where'er they pass They make that warmth in others they expect: Their valour works like bodies on a glass, And does its image on their men project. *Dryd. Ann. Mir.*

2. Scattered; dispersed; having the quality of diffusing diffusion.

No man is of so general and *diffusive* a lust, as to prosecute his amours all the world over. *South's Sermons.*

The stars, no longer overlaid with weight, Exert their heads from underneath the mals, And upward shoot, and kindle as they pass, And with *diffusive* light adorn their heav'nly place. *Dryden.*

Cherish'd with hope, and fed with joy it grows; Its cheerful buds their opening bloom disclose, And round the happy foil *diffusive* odour flows. *Prior.*

3. Extended; in full extension.

They are not agreed among themselves where infallibility is seated; whether in the pope alone, or a council alone, or in both together, or in the *diffusive* body of Christians. *Tilley.*

DIFFUSIVELY. *adv.* [from *diffusive*.] Widely; extensively; every way.

DIFFUSIVENESS. *n. f.* [from *diffusive*.]

1. Extension; dispersion; the power of diffusing; the state of being diffused.

2. Want of consistence; large compass of expression.

The fault that I find with a modern legend, is its *diffusiveness*; you have sometimes the whole side of a medal over-run with it. *Addison on Ancient Medals.*

TO DIG. *v. a.* preter. *dig*, or *digged*; part. pass. *dig*, or *digged*. [*dig*, Saxon; a ditch; *dyger*, Danish, to dig.]

1. To pierce with a spade.

Then said he unto me, Son of man, *dig* now in the wall; and when I had *digged* in the wall, I beheld a door. *Ezek. viii. 8.*

2. To form by digging.

Seek with heart and mouth to build up the walks of Jerusalem, which you have broken down; and to fill up the mines that you have *digged* by craft and subtlety, to overthrow the same. *Whitgift.*

He built towers in the desert, and *digged* many wells; for he had much cattle. *2 Chron. xxvi. 10.*

3. To cultivate the ground by turning it with a spade.

The walls of your garden, without their furniture, look as ill as those of your house; so that you cannot *dig* up your garden too often. *Temple.*

Be first to *dig* the ground, be first to burn The branches lopt. *Dryden's Virg. Georg. ii.*

4. To pierce with a sharp point.

A ravenous vulture in his open'd side, Her crooked beak and cruel talons try'd; Still for the growing liver *digged* his breast, The growing liver still supply'd the feat. *Dryden's Æn.*

5. To gain by digging.

It is *digged* out of even the highest mountains, and indeed all other parts of the earth contingently and indifferently; as the pyrites. *Woodward.*

Nor was the ground alone requir'd to bear Her annual income to the crooked share; But greedy mortals, rummaging her store, *Digg'd* from her entrails first the precious ore. *Dryd. Ovid.*

TO DIG. *v. a.* To work with a spade; to work in making holes, or turning the ground.

They long for death, but it cometh not; and *dig* for it more than far hid treasures. *Job iii. 21.*

They have often *dig* into lands that are described in old authors, as the places where such particular statues or obelisks stood, and have seldom failed of success in their pursuits. *Addison's Travels.*

TO DIG UP. *v. a.* To throw up that which is covered with earth.

If

DIG

If I *digg'd* up thy forefather's graves, And hung their rotten coffins up in chains, It would not flake mine ire. *Shak. H. VI.*

DYGERENT. *adj.* [*dygerens*, Latin.] That which has the power of digesting, or causing digestion. *Dict.*

DIGEST. *n. f.* [*digesta*, Latin.] The pandect of the civil law, containing the opinions of the ancient lawyers.

I had a purpose to make a particular *digest*, or recompilement of the laws of mine own nation.

Laws in the *digest* shew that the Romans applied themselves to trade. *Arbutnot on Coins.*

TO DIGEST. *v. a.* [*digesta*, *digestum*, Latin.]

1. To distribute into various classes or repositories; to range or dispose methodically.

2. To concoct in the stomach, so as that the various particles of food may be applied to their proper use.

If little faults, proceeding on distemper, Shall not be wink'd at, how shall we stretch our eye, When capital crimes, chew'd, swallow'd, and *digested*, Appear. *Shakespeare's Henry V.*

Each then has organs to *digest* his food; One to beget, and one receive the brood. *Prior.*

3. To soften by heat, as in a boiler, or in a dunghill: a chemical term.

4. To range methodically in the mind; to apply knowledge by meditation to its proper use.

A few chosen friends, who sometimes design To bless my humble roof, with sense refin'd, Learning *digested* well. *Thomson's Winter, l. 550.*

5. To reduce to any plan, scheme, or method.

Our play Leaps o'er the vault and fillings of those broils, 'Ginning i' th' middle: starting thence away, To what may be *digested* in a play. *Shakel. Trill. and Cressid.*

6. To receive without loathing or repugnance; not to reject.

First, let us go to dinner. —Nay, let me praise you while I have a stomach. —No, pray thee, let it serve for table talk; Then howe'er thou speak'st, among other things I shall *digest* it. *Shakespeare's Merchant of Venice.*

The pleasantness of numbers, that rudeness and barbarism might the better taste and *digest* the lessons of civility. *Peacham.*

7. To receive and enjoy.

Cornwall and Albany, With my two daughters dowers, *digest* the third. *Shakel.*

8. [In chirurgery.] To dispose a wound; to generate pus in order to a cure.

TO DIGEST. *v. n.* To generate matter as a wound, and tend to a cure.

DIGESTER. *n. f.* [from *digest*.]

1. He that digests or concocts his food.

People that are bilious and fat, rather than lean, are great eaters and ill *digesters*. *Arbutnot on Coins.*

2. A strong vessel or engine, contrived by M. Papin, wherein to boil, with a very strong heat, any bony substances, so as to reduce them into a fluid state.

3. That which causes or strengthens the concoctive power.

Rice is of excellent use for all illnesses of the stomach, a great restorer of health, and a great *digestor*. *Temple.*

DIGESTIBLE. *adj.* [from *digest*.] That which is capable of being digested or concocted in the stomach.

Those medicines that purge by stool enter not into the mesenteric veins; but are, at the first, not *digestible* by the stomach, and therefore move immediately downwards to the guts. *Bacon's Natural History, N^o. 43.*

DIGESTION. *n. f.* [from *digest*.]

1. The act of digesting or concocting food in the stomach.

Now good *digestion* wait on appetite, And health on both. *Shakespeare's Macbeth.*

Digestion is a fermentation begun, because there are all the requisites of such a fermentation; heat, air, and motion: but it is not a complete fermentation, because that requires a greater time than the continuance of the aliment in the stomach: vegetable putrefaction resembles very much animal *digestion*. *Arbutnot on Aliments.*

Quantity of food cannot be determined by measures and weights, or any general Lessian rules; but must vary with the vigour or decays of age or of health, and the use or disuse of air or of exercise, with the changes of appetite; and then, by what every man may find or suspect of the present strength or weakness of *digestion*. *Temple.*

Every morsel to a satisfied hunger, is only a new labour to a tired *digestion*. *South's Sermons.*

2. The preparation of matter by a chemical heat.

We conceive, indeed, that a perfect good concoction, or *digestion*, or maturation of some metals, will produce gold. *Bacon's Natural History, N^o. 327.*

Did chymick chance the furnaces prepare, Raise all the labour-houes of the air, And lay crude vapours in *digestion* there. *Blackmore.*

3. Reduction to a plan; the act of methodizing; the maturation of a scheme.

DIG

The *digestion* of the counsels in Sweden is made in senate, consisting of forty counsellors, who are generally the greatest men. *Temple.*

4. The act of disposing a wound to generate matter.

5. The disposition of a wound or sore to generate matter.

DIGESTIVE. *adj.* [from *digest*.]

1. Having the power to cause digestion, or to strengthen the stomach.

A chylifactory menstruum, or a *digestive* preparation, drawn from species or individuals, whose stomachs peculiarly dissolve lapideous bodies. *Brown's Vulgar Errors, b. ii. c. 5.*

2. Capable by heat to soften and subdue.

The earth and sun were in that very same state; the one active, piercing, and *digestive* by its heat; the other passive, receptive, and stored with materials for such a production. *Hale's Origin of Mankind.*

3. Considering; methodizing.

To business, ripen'd by *digestive* thought, This future rule is into method brought. *Dryden.*

DIGESTIVE. *n. f.* [from *digest*.] An application which disposes a wound to generate matter. *Wise man of Abbees.*

DIGGER. *n. f.* [from *dig*.] One that opens the ground with a spade.

When we visited mines, we have been told by *diggers*, that even when the sky seem'd clear, there would suddenly arise a steam so thick, that it would put out their candles. *Boyle.*

TO DIGHT. *v. a.* [*bihtan*, to prepare, to regulate, Saxon.] To dress; to deck; to bedeck; to embellish; to adorn.

On his head his dreadful hat he *digth*, Which maketh him invincible to fight. *Hubbard's Tale.*

Let my due feet never fail To walk the studious cloisters pale, And love the high embow'd roof, With antick pillar massy proof, And storied windows richly *digth*, Casting a dim religious light. *Milton.*

Just to the proud insulting lass Array'd and *digth* Hudibras. *Hudibras, p. i. cant. 3.*

DIGIT. *n. f.* [*digitus*, Latin.]

1. The measure of length containing three fourths of an inch.

If the inverted tube of mercury be but twenty-five *digits* high, or somewhat more, the quicksilver will not fall, but remain suspended in the tube, because it cannot press the sub-jacent mercury with so great a force as doth the incumbent cylinder of the air, reaching thence to the top of the atmosphere. *Boyle's Spring of the Air.*

2. The twelfth part of the diameter of the sun or moon.

3. Any of the numbers expressed by single figures; any number to ten.

Not only the number seven and nine, from considerations abstruse, have been extolled by most, but all or most of other *digits* have been as mystically applauded. *Brown's Vulg. Errors.*

DIGITATED. *adj.* [from *digitus*, Latin.] Branched out into divisions like fingers; as a *digitated* leaf is a leaf composed of many small leaves.

For animals multiformous, or such as are *digitated*, or have several divisions in their feet, there are but two that are uniparous; that is, men and elephants. *Brown's Vulgar Errors.*

DIGLADIATION. *n. f.* [*digladiatio*, Latin.] A combat with swords; any quarrel or contest.

Aristotle seems purposely to intend the cherishing of controversial *digladiations*, by his own affection of an intricate obscurity. *Glaro, Scet. c. 19.*

DIGNIFIED. *adj.* [from *dignify*.] Invested with some dignity: it is used chiefly of the clergy.

Abbots are stiled *dignified* clerks, as having some dignity in the church. *Ayliffe's Parergon.*

DIGNIFICATION. *n. f.* [from *dignify*.]

I grant that where a noble and ancient descent and merit meet in any man, it is a double *dignification* of that person. *Walton's Angler.*

TO DIGNIFY. *v. a.* [from *dignus* and *fieri*, Latin.]

1. To advance; to prefer; to exalt. Used chiefly of the clergy.

2. To honour; to adorn; to give lustre.

Such a day, So fought, so follow'd, and so fairly won, Came not 'till now to *dignify* the times, Since Caesar's fortunes! *Shakespeare's Henry IV.*

Not that we think us worthy such a guest, But your worth will *dignify* our feast. *Ben. Johnson's Epigr.*

No turbots *dignify* my boards; But gudgeons, flounders, what my Thames affords. *Pope.*

DIGNITARY. *n. f.* [from *dignas*, Latin.] A clergyman advanced to some dignity; to some rank above that of a parochial priest.

If there be any *dignitaries*, whose preferments are perhaps not liable to the accusation of superfluity, they may be persons of superior merit. *Swift.*

DIGNITY. *n. f.* [*dignitas*, Latin.]

1. Rank of elevation.

Angels are not any where spoken so highly of as our Lord and